

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 MCT-01 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 /072 W

-----120755Z 014157 /23-12

P R 111510Z JAN 77

FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5574

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAPE TOWN 0032

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, SF

SUBJ: SIX SCHOOLS DAMAGED BY ARSON, SCHOOL ATTENDANCE DIPS

REF: CAPE TOWN 0029

1. LATER NEWS REPORTS NOW INDICATE SIX SCHOOLS IN CAPE TOWN'S BLACK TOWNSHIPS OF LANGA AND NYANGA (NOT GUGULETU AS REPORTED EARLIER) WERE DAMAGED BY ARSON ATTEMPTS NIGHT OF JANUARY 10. ACTING BANTU AFFAIRS BOARD DIRECTOR, F. J. VAN EEDEN SAYS DAMAGE CONSERVATIVELY ESTIMATED AT R15,000. VAN EEDEN SAID CLASSES AT THE PRIMARY SCHOOLS WHICH WERE ATTACKED HAD BEEN SERIOUSLY DISRUPTED. HE ALSO CLAIMED, HOWEVER, THAT THERE WERE SIGNS THAT PUPILS WANT TO RETURN TO CLASSES. HE SAID SOME 40 SENIOR STUDENTS TURNED UP AT LANGA HIGH SCHOOL TO HELP CLEAN UP DAMAGE AND SAID HE WAS TOLD OF MEETING AT FEZEKA HIGH SCHOOL, LARGEST SECONDARY SCHOOL IN GUGULETU, AT WHICH STUDENTS DECIDED TO RETURN TO CLASSES.

2. DR. MARGARET ELLSWORTH, FOUNDER AND CHIRMAN OF BANTU LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SCHOLARS TRUST FUND ISSUED STATEMENT DEPLORING ATTACKS AND SAYING THAT MAJORITY OF BLACK PUPILS WERE BEING "HELD TO RANSOM" BY A SMALL GROUP OF MILITANT SENIOR SCHOOL STUDENTS WHOM SHE DESCRIBED AS A "GENERATION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN COMMITTING SUICIDE."

3. COMMENT: WHETHER VAN EEDEN IS OVERLY-OPTIMISTIC

IN SEEING SIGNS THAT SECONDARY SCHOOL BOYCOTT BEGINNING TO CRUMBLE REMAINS TO BE SEEN. IT IS SIGNIFICANT, HOWEVER, THAT WELL-KNOWN LIBERAL SUCH AS DR. ELLSWORTH HAS SPOKEN OUT SO FORCEFULLY AND HAS ASSERTED PUBLICLY THAT BOYCOTT IS WORK OF ONLY A SMALL MINORITY OF STUDENTS. AS NOTED IN PREVIOUS REPORTS, ASIDE FROM APPEALS BY BANTU BOARD OFFICIALS AND PUBLIC STATEMENT BY A BLACK MINISTER WHO REPORTEDLY NOT VERY INFLUENTIAL, THERE HAS BEEN CONSPICUOUS ABSENCE OF CALLS FROM BLACK LEADERS FOR END TO BOYCOTT. MOST RECENT ARSON ATTACKS HAVE PROMPTED ANGRY EDITORIALS IN BOTH "CAPE TIMES" AND "ARGUS" (LATTER LABELLED IT "DESTRUCTIVE AND STUPID"). NO ONE WOULD ARGUE THAT MILITANT STUDENTS LIKELY BE INFLUENCED BY EDIOTIALS IN "WHITE" NEWSPAPERS BUT IF PEOPLE ARE SYMPATHETIC TOWARD STUDENTS AS BANTU SCHOLARS FUND TRUSTEES FEEL COMPELLED TO SPEAK OUT, OTHER ELEMENTS OF COMMUNITY MAY ALSO FEEL EMBOLDENED TO CHALLENGE MORE MILITANT STUDENTS.
WHITE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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TAGS: PINS, PINT, SF
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